

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **29 December 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22 and 24. Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheussler et al (USPN 6,366,950, hereinafter "Scheussler"), in view of Robbins et al. (USPN 7,062,650 hereinafter "Robbins").

Rejections to the Information Disclosure Statement

Examiner has objected to the information disclosure statement filed on May 17, 2005 and May 26, 2006 for the incorrect citation of a patent. Applicant has corrected the patent citation on the information disclosure statement, and has submitted the corrected information disclosure statement on March 8, 2007.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Scheussler in view of Robbins. Examiner avers that Robbins discloses that *creating the hash further comprises checking a column attribute for a column in the database to determine that "privacy" is enabled for the column, and only upon privacy being enabled for the column, creating the hash*. In support of this assertion, Examiner cites Robbins, col. 1, lines 58-67, col. 3, lines 8-11 and 25-27, and col. 4, lines 38-50. Examiner acknowledges that Scheussler does not disclose *creating the hash further comprises checking a column attribute for a column in the database to determine that "privacy" is enabled for the column, and only upon privacy being enabled for the column, creating the hash*.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's interpretation and application of the cited disclosure of Robbins. Firstly, Robbins, col. 1, lines 58-67 does not disclose *checking a column attribute to determine that "privacy" is enabled for the column*. In contrast, Robbins discloses in this section verifying different components before performing an action (see Robbins, col. 1, lines 57-67). Verifying components in a system is not equivalent to determining if a column in a database is marked for storing data privately. For example, it is possible for software to not be compromised, and to be verified as such, but for a column in a database to not be marked for storing data privately. Moreover, extracting data from a binary description file needed to verify a software component is not equivalent to determining if a column within a database is marked for storing data privately, because the successful or unsuccessful verification of the software component does not provide any implication as to whether the column within the database was marked for storing data privately. In particular, the Robbins system is used to verify components for authentication of the origin of a software system, and for validating the integrity of the software system associated with the components (see Robbins, col. 1, lines 39-41). Such functionality is entirely different from checking the privacy-enablement of a database column.

Secondly, Examiner avers that Robbins, col. 3, lines 8-11 and 25-27, and col. 4, lines 38-45 discloses the condition of *privacy being enabled for the column*. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Robbins discloses in these sections that each of the object components that need verifying are associated with a unique name, corresponding license information, and user attributes, which facilitates verifying and validating the object components (see Robbins, col. 3, lines 8-11 and 25-27, and col. 4, lines 46-50). Information that facilitates verifying these attributes is not equivalent to determining if privacy has been enabled for a column in a database. Hence, Robbins fails to disclose the condition of privacy being enabled for the column.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that creating a hash further comprises checking a column attribute for a column, which stores the item of private information, in a database to determine that “privacy” is enabled for the column, and only upon privacy being enabled for the column, creating the hash. These amendments find support on page 5, paragraph [0021], lines 20-23 of the instant application.

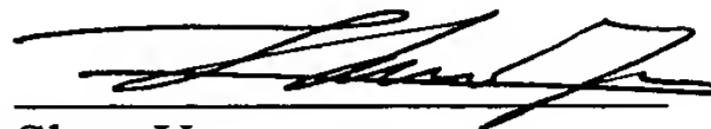
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-6 and 8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-14 and 16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-22 and 24, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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